

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

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P R 301919Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC RIORITY 7856

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 02087 VICE 02987

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: P.M. MANLEY'S BUDGET SPEECH

REF: KINGSTON 1989

1. FOLLOWING AN OPPOSITION WALK OUT MAY 27 IN PROTEST OVER ORDER OF BUDGET DEBATE SPEAKERS, P M MANLEY DELIVERED OVER FIVE HOUR SPEECH OUTLINING PLANS TO FURTHER HIS "PEACEFUL REVOLUTION" WHICH HE SAID HAD BEGUN, COULD NOT BE TURNED BACK AND WHICH HE WOULD NOT ALLOW "EVEN TO BE SLOWED DOWN." FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF SPEECH

2. WORKER PARTICIPATION - A NEW ERA OF WORKER PARTICIPATION IN CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING AT ALL LEVELS OF THE ECONOMY WAS DECLARED BY THE P.M. TO THAT END, GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PLAN THE NECESSARY LAWS AND STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT WHAT WOULD LEAD TO:

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A. THE PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE BY COMPANIES IN
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OF FULL DISCLOSURE OF THEIR
ACCOUNTS;

B. MECHANISMS AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH WHICH
WORKERS PARTICIPATE IN THE MAKING OF MANAGEMENT
DECISIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF THE ENTERPRISE;

C. STRATEGIES AND METHODS FOR WORKER ACQUISITION
OF SHARES IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE ENTERPRISE
WHICH EMPLOYS HIM: AND

D. MEANS AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH WHICH WORKERS CAN
PARTICIPATE IN TOP POLICY MAKING (E.G. BOARDS OF
DIRECTORS).

3. MANLEY SAID THAT ALL THE OBJECTIVES COULD NOT BE
SECURED IMMEDIATELY OR SIMULTANEOUSLY. "BUT I STATE
THESE FOUR STAGES CLEARLY SO THAT ALL JAMAICA CAN KNOW THAT
THIS IS THE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE ARE HEADED. AND WHEN I
SAY HEADED I DO NOT MEAN NEXT YEAR OR SOME TIME IN THE
1980S. I MEAN HEADED NOW, AND WITH PLANNING TO
COMMENCE TOMORROW". THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED
TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SIMPLEST
ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM CAPABLE OF EARLIEST IMPLEMENTATION
BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE COMMITTEE WILL BE
HEADED BY REX NETTLEFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE UNION
EDUCATION INSTITUTE.

4. LAND OWNERSHIP - MANLEY DEcriED THE FACT THAT OWNERSHIP
OF MUCH OF JAMAICA'S LAND WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS OF
A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE AND SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE A FUNDAMENTAL
RESTRUCTURING OF THE LAND SYSTEM. NEW
STRATEGIES WOULD BE APPLIED TO BRING INTO NATIONAL OWNERSHIP
ALL LAND NOT BEING EFFECTIVELY AND ADEQUATELY USED.
THE P.M. CLOSED THIS SUBJECT WITH AN ADMONITION AGAINST
"CAPTURING" OR SEIZURE OF LAND.

5. YOUTH AFFAIRS- AS TRAINING IN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY
MANLEY ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SYSTEM OF
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STUDENT COUNCILS TO BE ELECTED IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.
THE COUNCILS WILL SERVE AS ADVISERS TO THEIR PRINCIPALS
AND FROM THEM WILL BE DRAWN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL
STUDENT COUNCIL WHICH WILL BECOME AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION. A NATIONAL SPORTS SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE
ESTABLISHED THAT WILL PROVIDE EVERY MAJOR LOCALITY WITH
ORGANIZED TEAMS, AND LEAGUES FOR THEM TO COMPETE IN.

6. SOCIAL SERVICES - A LARGE PORTION OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO OUTLINING PLANS FOR NEW EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, DAY CARE CENTERS, WORKERS' HOUSING, NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS AND COOPERATIVES

7. MISCELLANEOUS - MANLEY CLAIMED HE WAS PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT BAUXITE POLICY BUT AS TIME WAS SHORT HE SAID HE WOULD SKIP IT AS EVERYONE KNEW HIS POLICY WAS "STUNNING SUCCESS". ON FOREIGN POLICY, THE P.M. INDULGED IN A SELF-CONGRATULATORY REVIEW OF HIS EFFORTS ON BEHAL OF THIRD WORLD STRATEGY, STARTING WITH THE ALGIERS NAC AND CULMINATING IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRIPS TO MEXICO, CUBA, AND THE UN TO ADDRESS THE SPECIAL SESSION. FULL TEXT OF MANLEY'S SPEECH WILL BE POUCHED WHEN AVAILABLE.

8. COMMENT: THE OPPOSITION WALKED OUT AFTER THE SPEAKER FAILED TO ACCEDE TO A REQUEST THAT JLP LEADER SEAGA BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK AFTER MANLEY, THEIR CONTENTION BEING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM AND DIRECTIONS WOULD BE SPELLED OUT IN THE P.M.'S SPEECH AND NOT COORE'S (REFTEL), MAKING IT RATHER DIFFICULT FOR THE OPPOSITION TO INTELLIGENTLY COMMENT IF IT HAD TO SPEAK BEFORE MANLEY. THE OPPOSITION WAS RIGHT; COORE'S SPEECH WAS NUTS AND BOLTS WHILE MANLEY'S WAS THE BLUEPRINT.

9. BASKING IN PRIME TV TIME MANLEY PUT ON AN EXCELLENT SHOW, DEFTLY PORTRAYING HIMSELF AS WORLD STATESMAN, SOCIAL INNOVATOR AND MAN OF THE PEOPLE. HE PLAYED TO THE "SUFFERERS" AND CONSEQUENTLY FURTHER UNSETTLED THE BUSINESS CLASS. HEWITT

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MANLEY'S PRONOUNCEMENTS ON FULL DISCLOSURE, WORKER PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT, LAND REFORM, ETC. HEIGHTENED THE PRIVATE SECTORS CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF ITS INVESTMENTS.

10. CRITICS OF THE SPEECH FALL INTO TWO GENERAL CATEGORIES; THE OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS WHO READ IT AS YET ANOTHER STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CUBAN MODEL, AND THOSE WHO CONSIDER MANLEY'S PROPOSALS AS PERSONALLY SINCERE BUT NAIVELY VISIONARY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF TRUTH IN BOTH CRITICISMS BUT NEITHER ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE THE DIRECTION OF THE GOJ. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE OPPOSITION'S CONTENTION THAT MANLEY IS INTENT ON APING THE CUBAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. HE IS, HOWEVER, FASCINATED BY WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE CUBA'S SUCCESS IN MOBILIZING UNUSED OR UNDERUTILIZED HUMAN RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE FEELS JAMAICA IN THE PAST HAS BEEN TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH IMPORTING HIGH COST TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH HAVE PROVIDED LITTLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OR NEW EMPLOYMENT

11. WHAT CAN BE SAID WITH SAME CERTAINTY ABOUT THE SPEECH
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IS THAT IT REPRESENTS A QUANTUM IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT/COMMITMENT TO A NOT YET FULLY DEVELOPED CONCEPTION OF AN AUTHENTICALLY JAMAICAN BRAND OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM IN WHICH "THE PEOPLE MUST CONTROL DECISION-MAKING AT ALL LEVELS-IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE NATION'S INSTITUTIONS AND THE ECONOMY". WHERE MANLEY WANTS TO GO IS FAIRLY CLEAR. WHAT IS QUESTIONABLE IS WHETHER HE HAS THE PHYSICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEANS AT HIS DISPOSAL TO GET THERE WITHOUT CAUSING SERIOUS DISLOCATIONS IN JAMAICAN SOCIETY

12. WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE HAVING CLOSED WITHOUT SEAGA'S CONTRIBUTION, THE JLP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SEAGA WILL REPLY TO MANLEY'S SPEECH JUNE 5 AT SOME VENUE OUTSIDE OF PARLIAMENT YET TO BE ANNOUNCED. WHILE SEAGA WILL SPEND SOME TIME CASTIGATING MANLEY FOR TRANSFORMING THE BUDGET DEBATE INTO PNP THEATER, A CRITIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ECONOMY WILL BE THE NEUCLEUS

OF HIS PRESENTATION. HEWITT

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